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LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 12 January 1993 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the statement made on behalf of the Security Council on 11 January 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 12 January 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

Iraq expresses its deep regret at the statement issued yesterday by the Security Council, lacking as it is in objectivity.

In past days, it has been very clear that the United States Administration and its particular associate the United Kingdom have been trying to stack the cards. It became evident to the world that the United States had falsely claimed that the decision to impose an aerial exclusion zone south of the 32nd parallel in Iraq had been taken by the United Nations and that it had been no more than a unilateral decision violating Iraq's sovereignty and aiming at interference in its internal affairs and at its partition. It having also become clear that the two were seeking to launch a new aggression against Iraq because it was exercising its natural right to sovereignty over its territory and its airspace, there were artificial and frenzied attempts to distort the situation and stack the cards for the purpose of depicting the position of Iraq as that of attempting to flout the resolutions of the Security Council or to defy the Council as alleged.

Iraq has not flouted the resolutions of the Security Council, and it has no intention of defying the Council.

With regard to the property that it retrieved from Umm Qasr, it must be said that the items in question belong to Iraq and that there can be no disputing that fact. The retrieval was carried out in a peaceful and orderly manner, and the property does not include any item prohibited under resolution 687 (1991). The clamour surrounding the matter has been contrived and the situation systematically escalated by the United States and its allies, and fragmentary and alarming information has been provided to the Council with the objective indicated above.

With regard to our request for a halt to the use of foreign aircraft by the Special Commission, we stated in our letter to the Council of 9 January 1992 that it was a temporary request and stressed the earnestness of our request relating to the need to use Iraqi aircraft instead of the foreign aircraft that the Special Commission uses. We should like to clarify two aspects of this question:

1. Everyone knows that the United States and the United Kingdom are persisting in the threat to launch military aggression against Iraq. Should such aggression take place, Iraq would naturally respond in keeping with its right to legitimate self-defence. A situation of this kind might place the aircraft used by the United Nations in danger. The request that the operation of United Nations aircraft be suspended in these circumstances is therefore a logical one and emanates from a sense of responsibility. Iraq does not

understand why the matter has been handled by the Council in this manner despite the fact that it is abundantly clear and does not call for any of the uneasiness reflected in the Council's statement.

2. Iraq has not understood what the legal and logical principles on which the Council rejected the use of Iraqi aircraft could be. In the informal consultations held by the Council yesterday, a number of members raised questions concerning this matter and no clear answer to them was given. How can Iraq's request that its aircraft be used for United Nations purposes instead of foreign aircraft possibly be interpreted as defiance of the Council or th. flouting of its resolutions?

While expressing its deep regret at a type of treatment that has no basis in logic or fairness, Iraq affirms that it does not wish to have problems with the Security Council. It affirms its wish for dialogue with the Council and with all who so desire with a view to reaching mutual understanding based on justice, fairness and lawful rights. If, however, it is the intention of some to pursue a policy of imposition, coercion and the violation of rights and sovereignty, then Iraq shall not relinquish and shall not bargain with respect to matters affecting the defence of its sovereignty and its legitimate rights.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq